

Serial No. 10/017,644  
Filed: December 14, 2001  
Page 3 of 8

Examiner: Joseph L. Perrin  
Group Art Unit: 1746

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) An appliance for treating at least one cloth item comprising:  
a collapsible or expandable container comprising a flexible material, the container defining an interior space for enclosing the at least one cloth item;  
a container opening in the flexible material for accessing the interior space;  
a humidity provider;  
a heating element;  
at least one vent;  
an air circulation device;  
a fastener operable between an opened and a closed condition for selectively opening and closing the container opening; and  
an interlock for locking the fastener in the closed condition during the operation of a refreshing/cleaning cycle to prevent accidental opening of the container during the refreshing/cleaning cycle.
10. (New) The appliance according to claim 9, wherein the interlock comprises a locking mechanism operable between a locked and an unlocked condition and operably coupled to the fastener such that when the fastener is in the closed condition and the lock mechanism is in the locked condition, the fastener cannot be moved to the open condition until the lock mechanism is in the unlocked condition.
11. (New) The appliance according to claim 10, wherein the interlock further comprises a controller for implementing the refreshing/cleaning cycle and operably coupled to the locking mechanism such that the controller prevents changing the locking mechanism from the locked to the unlocked condition during the refreshing/cleaning cycle.

Serial No. 10/017,644  
Filed: December 14, 2001  
Page 4 of 8

Examiner: Joseph L. Perrin  
Group Art Unit: 1746

12. (New) The appliance according to claim 11, wherein the fastener comprises a zipper.
13. (New) The appliance according to claim 11 wherein the fastener comprises a vertical zipper and at least one horizontal zipper extending laterally therefrom and the container opening is in the opened condition when the vertical zipper and the at least one horizontal zipper are in an unzipped position.
14. (New) The appliance according to claim 13, wherein the at least one horizontal zipper can only be unzipped with the vertical zipper in the unzipped position.
15. (New) The appliance according to claim 11, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a reciprocating pin operable between an extended position, wherein the pin engages the fastener in the closed condition to prevent the movement of the fastener to the opened condition, and a retracted position, wherein the fastener is free to move to the opened condition.
16. (New) The appliance according to claim 15, wherein the locking mechanism further comprises a driver for reciprocating the pin between the extended and retracted positions.
17. (New) The appliance according to claim 16, wherein the driver comprises one of a wax motor and a solenoid operably coupled to the controller.
18. (New) The appliance according to claim 11, and further comprising a sound indicator that emits sound during the refreshing/cleaning cycle.
19. (New) The appliance according to claim 18, wherein the sound indicator is operably coupled to the controller, which adjusts the intensity of the emitted sound to indicate the progress of the refreshing/cleaning cycle.
20. (New) The appliance according to claim 19, wherein the intensity of said sound is not higher than 70 dB.
21. (New) An appliance for refreshing/cleaning at least one cloth item in a refreshing/cleaning cycle, comprising:
  - a collapsible container comprising a flexible material, the container defining an interior space for enclosing the at least one cloth item;
  - a humidity provider;
  - a heating element;
  - at least one vent;

Serial No. 10/017,644  
Filed: December 14, 2001  
Page 5 of 8

Examiner: Joseph L. Perrin  
Group Art Unit: 1746

- an air circulation device; and
- a light source located in the interior space for transmitting light through the flexible material for observation by a user during a refreshing/cleaning cycle.
22. (New) The appliance according to claim 21, and further comprising a controller operably coupled to the light source wherein the controller adjusts the intensity of the light source during the cycle to indicate the progress of the cycle.
23. (New) The appliance according to claim 22, wherein the flexible material is one of transparent and translucent.
24. (New) The appliance according to claim 22, wherein the light source is activated when the cycle is initiated.
25. (New) The appliance according to claim 22, and further comprising a VFD or LCD display indicator to indicate the progress of the treating cycle.
26. (New) The appliance according to claim 22, and further comprising a sound indicator that emits sound during the refreshing/cleaning cycle.
27. (New) The appliance according to claim 26, wherein the sound indicator is operably coupled to the controller, which adjusts the intensity of the emitted sound to indicate the progress of the refreshing/cleaning cycle.
28. (New) The appliance according to claim 27, wherein the intensity of the sound is not higher than 70 dB.